**NORTHWEST  
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January 8, 2001

Tom Fitzsimmons  
Director, Washington Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Director Fitzsimmons:

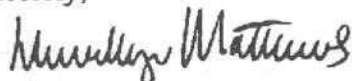
Thank you again for meeting with Ken Johnson and myself on the subject of Washington's participation in Columbia River TMDL development. Near the conclusion of this session you asked for our perspective on the key actions to ensure a successful water clean up plan effort. With the benefit of some time to reflect on this question, here are a number of principles important to NWPPA member mills. Our interest in the proposed TMDL Memorandum of Agreement is limited to temperature.

- The MOA should recognize as "participants" significant industrial and municipal point source discharges of heat.
- As the lead for the temperature TMDL, EPA should form a technical work group to advise on the most appropriate methods and tools to assess the range of factors influencing river temperature. Ultimately, the participants must have confidence that a technical capability exists to make regulatory determinations on heat apportionment in an extremely complex watershed.
- Support, and promote to EPA, the Industrial Section requirements for Columbia River mills to conduct multi-year studies of receiving water temperature and effluent discharge impacts, and then for mills to examine heat reduction technologies or techniques. The renewed NPDES permits should allow for temperature mixing zones consistent with WAC 173-201A-100.
- Provide a confident mechanism to integrate information results from the 2001-2006 NPDES permit requirements with the TMDL development process. The mechanism should be carefully structured to avoid recognizable pitfalls, e.g., diminishment of permit shield, over-appropriation of temperature allocations, anti-backsliding concerns. NWPPA would welcome an opportunity to provide ideas toward this end.
- Support revisions to WAC 222 (DNR Forest Practices regulation), implementing the Forest and Fish agreement and ESHB 2091, as the full and adequate forest management response to water quality standards attainment and amintenance.

Lastly, at the time we met, we were uncertain regarding the scope of the TMDL. The MOA is broad enough to encompass all sources, but the language appears, to emphasize effects of dams on dissolved oxygen and temperature. While a TMDL must account for all sources, as we discussed, there is past precedent for initially addressing some categories of sources more specifically and proceeding to address additional categories as the technical foundation becomes available to do so.

Although it is too early to determine the best option for incorporating our on-going permitting and study results into the process, we would appreciate it if additional agency discussions could shed light on ;(a) the scope of the TMDL and (b) whether a phased approach would be an option.

Sincerely,



Llewellyn Matthews  
Executive Director